

(i) Financial and budget counseling including advice on debt levels, credit purchases, consumer and cost awareness, debt adjustment procedures, and availability of other financial counseling services;

(ii) Monitoring payment of taxes and insurance;

(iii) Home maintenance and management; and

(iv) Other counseling based on the needs of the low-income families.

(2) Contracting and assisting low-income families in need of adequate housing by:

(i) Implementing an organized outreach program using available media and personal contacts;

(ii) Explaining available housing programs and alternatives to increase the awareness of low-income families and to educate the community as to the benefits which can accrue from improved housing;

(iii) Assisting low-income families locate adequate housing;

(iv) Providing construction supervision, training, and guidance to low-income families not involved in mutual self-help projects who are otherwise being assisted by the TSA project;

(v) Organizing local public or private nonprofit groups willing to provide adequate housing for low-income families; and

(vi) Providing assistance to families and organizations in processing housing loan and/or grant applications generated by the TSA program, including developing and packaging such applications for new construction, rehabilitation, or repair to serve low-income families.

(i) *Technical assistance.* Any specific expertise necessary to carry out housing efforts by or for low-income families to improve the quantity and/or quality of housing available to meet their needs. Such assistance should be specifically related to the supervisory assistance provided by the project, and may include, as appropriate, the following activities:

(1) Develop, or assist eligible applicants to develop, multi-housing loan and/or grant applications for new construction, rehabilitation, or repair to serve low-income families.

(2) Market surveys, engineering studies, cost estimates, and feasibility studies related to applications for housing assistance to meet the specific needs of the low-income families assisted under the TSA program.

[44 FR 36891, June 22, 1979, as amended at 46 FR 61990, Dec. 21, 1981; 50 FR 39967, Oct. 1, 1985; 51 FR 6393, Feb. 26, 1986; 59 FR 7193, Feb. 15, 1994; 67 FR 78328, Dec. 24, 2002]

§§ 1944.507–1944.509 [Reserved]

§ 1944.510 Applicant eligibility.

To be eligible to receive a grant, the applicant must:

(a) Be an organization as defined in § 1944.506(e).

(b) Have the financial, legal, administrative, and operational capacity to assume and carry out the responsibilities imposed by the grant agreement. To meet this requirement of actual capacity, it must either:

(1) Have necessary background and experience with proven ability to perform responsibly in the field of low-income rural housing development and counseling, or other business management or administrative experience which indicates an ability to provide responsible technical and supervisory assistance; or

(2) Be assisted by an organization which has such background experience and ability and which agrees in writing that it will provide, without charge, the assistance the applicant will need to carry out its responsibilities.

(c) Legally obligate itself to administer TSA funds, provide an adequate accounting of the expenditure of such funds, and comply with the grant agreement and FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 regulations;

(d) Demonstrate an understanding of the needs of low-income rural families;

(e) Have the ability and willingness to work within established guidelines; and

(f) If the applicant is engaged in or plans to become engaged in any other activities, it must be able to provide sufficient evidence and documentation that it has adequate resources, including financial resources, to carry on any other programs or activities to which it is committed without jeopardizing

§ 1944.511

the success and effectiveness of its TSA project.

§ 1944.511 [Reserved]

§ 1944.512 Authorized representative of the applicant.

FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 will deal only with authorized representatives designed by the applicant. The authorized representatives must have no pecuniary interest in any of the following as they would relate in any way to the TSA grant: the award of any engineering, architectural, management, administration, or construction contracts; purchase of the furnishings, fixtures or equipment; or purchase and/or development of land.

NOTE: FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 has designated the District Office as the primary point of contact for all matters relating to the TSA program and as the office responsible for the administration of approved TSA projects.

§ 1944.513 [Reserved]

§ 1944.514 Comprehensive TSA grant projects.

(a) The rural area to be covered by the TSA project must be realistically serviceable by the applicant in terms of funding resources, manpower, and distances and generally should be limited to one to four counties within the service area of one District Office.

(b) Consideration of the following items may assist applicants develop TSA projects which meet the needs of low-income families in the proposed TSA service area: present population distribution, projected population growth or decline, the amount of inadequate housing, economic conditions, and trends of the rural areas concerned, and any other factors affecting the quantity and quality of housing currently available or planned for the area. Consideration must also be given to the needs and desires of the community; the financial and social condition of the individuals within the community; the needs of areas with a concentration of low-income minority families and the needs of FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 borrowers who are delinquent in their housing loan payments; the avail-

7 CFR Ch. XVIII (1-1-04 Edition)

ability of supporting services such as water, sewerage, health and educational facilities, transportation, recreational and community facilities, and the types of housing facilities and services presently available or planned to which the low-income families have or will have ready access.

(c) Each TSA applicant should consider the alternatives available to provide needed housing facilities and services for the area. Consideration should also be given to the recommendations and services available from local, state, federal governmental entities, and from private agencies and individuals.

(1) In no case should the TSA project deliberately conflict with or duplicate housing studies, plans, projects, or any other housing related activities in a rural area unless documentation shows these activities do not meet the needs of low-income families.

(2) Each TSA project should be coordinated to the extent possible with any comprehensive or special purpose plans and projects affecting low-income housing in the area.

(3) To the fullest extent possible, TSA projects should be coordinated with any housing-related activities currently being carried out in the area.

(d) TSA applicants must coordinate their proposals with the appropriate County and District Offices to be fully familiar with the needs of those offices and of the low-income families currently served by the County Offices.

§ 1944.515 [Reserved]

§ 1944.516 Grant purposes.

Grant funds are to be used for a housing delivery system and counseling program to include a comprehensive program of technical and supervisory assistance as set forth in the grant agreement and any other special conditions as required by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354. Uses of grant funds may include, but are not limited to:

(a) The development and implementation of a program of technical and supervisory assistance as defined in § 1944.506 (h) and (i).

(b) Payment of reasonable salaries of professional, technical, and clerical